

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ON MAINE SEACOAST NAMED IN HONOR OF NOTED WRITER, RACHEL CARSON

Naming of a national wildlife refuge stretching 40 miles along the Maine coast in honor of the late Rachel Carson, noted author of "Silent Spring," "The Sea Around Us," and "Under the Sea-Wind," was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel.

Considered one of the most appealing areas for birdlife in the United States, the sanctuary will be known as the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge as "a tribute to one of the greatest conservationists of our time," Secretary Hickel said.

"The selection of this ideal site responds to the wishes of many thousands of people throughout the United States," Secretary Hickel said. "I am particularly proud that Miss Carson's great awareness of nature was sharpened by the 16 years she spent as a writer and editor for Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service."

Miss Carson's most famous work, "Silent Spring," which appeared in 1962, brought forth in dramatic fashion the dangers of DDT and other pesticides. It frequently is quoted as a classic in its field along with her earlier volumes on the sea.

The seacoast now occupied by the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge was well known to the author who had a summer home nearby. It was set aside originally in 1966 as the Coastal Maine Refuge. Containing 1,305 acres, it ultimately will be expanded to 4,000 acres, Secretary Hickel said.

Waterfowl and shorebirds use the area heavily during migration and it is popular for clamming, boating, fishing, hiking, and bird-watching.

A native of Springdale, Pa., Miss Carson received her A. B. degree from Pennsylvania College for Women and her M.A. from Johns Hopkins University. She did graduate work at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., and participated in many oceanographic expeditions.

Following a teaching career at Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland, Miss Carson joined the Interior Department in 1936. When she left in 1952 to devote full time to writing, her articles and essays already had appeared in many of the nation's leading periodicals.

She received many honorary degrees and awards for her writings on conservation topics. In 1963 the National Wildlife Federation named her "Conservationist of the Year " and she received the National Audubon Society's Audubon Medal.

Miss Carson is credited with starting the "Age of Ecology" in the United States and with inspiring widespread interest in safeguarding wildlife.

She died April 14, 1964, at her home in Silver Spring, Md.

The Interior Department's official notice renaming the Maine refuge says:

"This name change is in honor of Rachel Carson, who elevated the role of women in the field of biology through her painstaking field work; the excellence and stimulation of her writings; and the prestige she gained for the field of ecology and animal behavior."

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